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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	JUSE-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-09	G-00	/054W				

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P 221337Z JUL 94
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4586
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 003017

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, UY
SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN REACTION TO BUENOS AIRES BOMBING

1. (U) SUMMARY: URUGUAYANS FROM ACROSS THE
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POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO EXPRESS
THEIR OUTRAGE AT THE BOMBING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES. ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THE
MILITARY, AS WELL AS THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND
DEFENSE, AND THEIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE AGREED
TO COORDINATE THEIR COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINE
AUTHORITIES. A NUMBER OF PERSONS OF MID-EASTERN
ORIGIN HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE, ALTHOUGH NO
CONNECTION WITH THE ATTACK HAS BEEN MADE THUS FAR.
END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JULY 18 CONSTITUTION DAY CEREMONIES, PRESIDENT LUIS ALBERTO LACALLE, ACCOMPANIED BY INTERIOR MINISTER ANGEL GIANOLA AND MRS. LACALLE, WENT TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TO OFFER THEIR CONDOLENCES TO AMBASSADOR ARTZIELI. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE EVENT OCCURED ON THE DAY THAT URUGUAYANS CELEBRATE THE RULE OF LAW AND EXPRESSED THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD JEWISH COMMUNITY AND WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL. LACALLE ALSO ORDERED INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES BE PROVIDED FOR ALL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WAS FOLLOWED BY VISITS FROM NUMEROUS CABINET MINISTERS AND POLITICAL FIGURES FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

3. (U) THE URUGUAYAN JEWISH COMMUNITY REACTED STRONGLY TO THE BOMBING AS WELL, ORGANIZING A PUBLIC CEREMONY JULY 19 IN RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK. THE EVENT, HELD AT THE MONTEVIDEO JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, WAS ATTENDED BY ALL MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JORGE PACHECO ARECO WHO WAS
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ILL), THE CABINET, AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS, AS WELL AS A CROWD WHICH EXTENDED INTO THE STREET. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, THE PARTICIPANTS MADE A SILENT CANDLELIGHT MARCH FROM THE CENTER TO THE PLAZA INDEPENDENCIA (ROUGHLY ONE MILE) WHERE THE LEADERS OF THE ZIONIST YOUTH READ A PROCLAMATION IN FRONT OF THE TOMB OF URUGUAYAN PATRIOT JOSE ARTIGAS AND A CROWD ESTIMATED AT 10,000. A SECOND EVENT WAS HELD BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MALDONADO DEPARTMENT ON JULY 20. THE EVENT ATTRACTED 500 PERSONS INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTAL AUTHORITIES. IN ADDITION, MONTEVIDEO'S JEWISH-OWNED BUSINESSES CLOSED FOR ONE HALF-HOUR JULY 21 TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR REPUDIATION OF THE ATTACK.

4. (U) AT THE REQUEST OF ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS STEPPED UP PATROLS WITHIN MONTEVIDEO AND INCREASED BORDER CONTROLS IN CASE SUSPECTS ATTEMPT TO TRANSIT OR REMAIN IN URUGUAY. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE, ANGEL GIANOLA AND DANIEL MARTINS, HAVE AGREED THAT THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES, THEIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL COORDINATE

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THEIR COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES.

5. (U) URUGUAYAN POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE DETAINED A NUMBER OF PERSONS OF MIDDLE-EASTERN ORIGIN, INCLUDING AN IRANIAN CARRYING A UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IDENTITY DOCUMENT. THE UNHCR HAD DECLARED THE IRANIAN TO HAVE A REASONABLE

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FEAR OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN IRAN. AN ARAB BUSINESSMAN WAS ALSO ARRESTED IN CHUY ON THE BRAZILIAN BORDER. BOTH PERSONS HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED ALTHOUGH THE URUGUAYAN PRESS REPORTS THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES ARE LOOKING FOR AN ADDITIONAL MID-EASTERN SUSPECT SAID TO BE IN URUGUAY. POLICE HAVE ALSO INCREASED PATROLS NEAR OFFICES AND FACILITIES OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AFTER RECEIPT OF A NUMBER OF BOMB THREATS SINCE THE BUENOS AIRES ATTACK.
6. (C) COMMENT: THE SHOCK AT THE BUENOS AIRES BOMBING IS GRADUALLY GIVING WAY TO A MIXTURE OF RELIEF

THAT IT DID NOT HAPPEN HERE AND RECOGNITION BY GOU OFFICIALS THAT IT COULD HAPPEN IN URUGUAY. WHILE THEY WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS SAFE FROM TERRORISM, THIS WEEK'S ATTACK IN BUENOS AIRES FORCED URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS TO FACE THE FACT THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS VULNERABLE. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHAT ADDITIONAL CONCRETE STEPS THE GOU MAY TAKE AS A RESULT.

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